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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry
74-2809

16 SEP 1974



MEMORANDUM FOR: Major General George J. Keegan, Jr., USAF  
Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence

SUBJECT: Lead Time Indicators for Soviet Military RDT&E

1. Thank you for your memorandum of 28 August 1974 requesting that an increased community-wide effort be devoted to the matter of lead time indicators in the entire spectrum of Soviet military research and development.
2. As you know, the various USIB committees--in particular, GMAIC and SIC--comprise already-existing community mechanisms with cognizance over virtually every Soviet military area. Within their areas of responsibility, I am looking to these committees to participate in establishing and observing priorities for community attention to such matters as you raise in your memorandum. I am well aware that Air Force Intelligence actively participates in the work of these committees, and I encourage your representatives on them to continue to stress lead time indicators.
3. To be sure, there are research and development areas deserving particularly close attention--such as ASW, new bombers, mobile ICBMs, and military lasers--because they are subjects which USIB and its customers have agreed are Key Intelligence Questions having direct bearing on US defense policy. These are given close and systematic scrutiny in special studies undertaken by the National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs working within the KIQ framework. The scope of this effort includes assessment of the indicators of such programs and what they tell us about Soviet developmental timetables.
4. I believe this approach is appropriate and sufficient to enable the community to focus its resources as effectively as possible on the critical aspects of Soviet military research and development.

/s/ Bill

MORI/CDF

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W. E. Colby

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SUBJECT: Lead Time Indicators for Soviet Military RDT&E

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